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**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
GROUP 2652
PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Yong-ju CHI

Appln. No.: 09/176,940

Group Art Unit: 2652

Confirmation No.: 2476

Examiner: Robert S. Tupper

Filed: October 22, 1998

For: HEAD DRUM ASSEMBLY FOR TAPE RECORDER

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Technology Center 2100

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

ATTN: BOX AF
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 13, 2002, please consider the remarks as submitted herewith.

REMARKS

Claim 1 presently is pending in the application.

The Examiner has continued to reject claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by JP 2-9002. For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner maintains that Applicant argues that JP 2-9002 does not show (1) a flexible printed circuit to be disposed inside the stationary drum, and (2) the first end of the flexible printed circuit to be "fittingly coupled" to the through hole. The Examiner disagrees and maintains that the element labeled as 20 is a part of the stationary drum and that the flexible

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printed circuit is clearly disposed within that part of the stationary drum. Moreover, the Examiner maintains that the phrase "fittingly coupled" is not defined in the specification, and therefore the term is read broadly simply to require that the connector be disposed within the opening.

However, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner for the following reasons. First, quite clearly Applicant did not merely argue that JP 2-9002 does not show the flexible printed circuit to be disposed inside the stationary drum. Rather, as can be seen on page 2 of the Request for Reconsideration filed on January 29, 2002, Applicant argued that

[w]hile the Examiner references the elements 20B of JPA 2-9002 as a flexible printed circuit, *these elements are in fact connector pins and not a flexible printed circuit.* (emphasis added)

Thus, the Examiner still has failed to address the argument that the elements 20B of JPA 2-9002 are not a flexible printed circuit but rather are simply connector pins.

Furthermore, with respect to the argument that JPA 2-9002 shows the connector 20D inserted through a through-hole formed in the chassis 40 but with some clearance between the two elements (see FIG. 1), Applicant's specification does in fact define that the first connector is "strongly fitted into the through-hole 230a" (see page 7, lines 12-14 of the subject application). Thus, while the specification does not use the term "an interference fit relationship" referred to by the Examiner, the specification is sufficiently clear to differentiate from simply requiring the connector to be disposed within the opening.

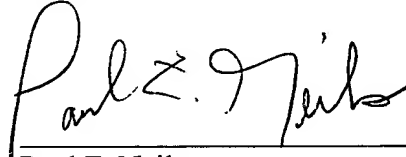
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul F. Neils", written over a horizontal line.

Paul F. Neils
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Date: April 5, 2002

Attorney Docket No.: Q52063